



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Press Release

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Injured Soldier Naturalized At Walter Reed by USCIS Director *One of more than 40,000 non-citizens serving in the military*

Washington D.C. – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Eduardo Aguirre swore in Army Specialist Victor Alfonso Rojas as a United States citizen in a private ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. With his father, senior Army officers, and many doctors, nurses, and other medical staff looking on, Rojas raised his right hand to take the Oath of Allegiance to fulfill his long held dream of becoming a U.S. citizen. He arrived at Walter Reed on Nov. 18, 2004, for treatment of the serious injuries he sustained during combat Iraq.

“I feel really good about becoming a citizen. I was looking for this before going to Iraq,” Rojas said after the ceremony, proudly pointing out that he was second member of his family to become a U.S. citizen.

On Nov. 16, 2004, Rojas was driving a vehicle as part of a convoy to collect fuel trucks at Camp Spiker in Iraq. While rendezvousing with a second convoy, he and the convoy suddenly found themselves under rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack. Although he received serious wounds to his right knee when a RPG round hit his vehicle, Rojas continued to drive, using left leg to get the other soldiers with him in the vehicle out of the line of fire. As he was driving away, his vehicle took a second round, and he suffered additional injuries. Once clear of the attack and everyone was safe, Rojas sought treatment, and was evacuated due to his injuries.

Rojas immigrated to the U.S. from Zacatecas, Mexico, in 1997, settling with his family in Aurora, Ill. After graduating East Aurora High School, where he participated in the Junior ROTC program, Rojas enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard as a power generator repairman. In June 2003, Rojas was placed on active duty with the 3625 Maintenance Company and deployed to Iraq soon after.

A selfless soldier, after the ceremony Rojas’ immediate goal was to recover from his injuries and start running again so that he could rejoin his unit and fellow soldiers.

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